

The Definition of an Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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Energy Efficiency &
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Mandates for Acquiring AFVs

- EPA Act 1992, section 303
 - 75% of covered light-duty vehicles acquired must be AFVs
- Presidential Memorandum on Federal Fleet Performance (May 24, 2011)
 - 100% of light-duty vehicles acquired must be AFVs by the end of calendar year 2015
- Both mandates define AFVs in the same way

Mandate for Acquiring Low GHG-Emitting Vehicles

- EISA 2007, section 141
 - 100% of light-duty vehicles and medium-duty passenger vehicles acquired must be low GHG-emitting vehicles

- The definition of an AFV from EPAAct 1992, section 301 (section A below), was amended by NDAA 2008, section 2862, by adding section B below
- 42 U.S.C. 13211
 - Section 3: “Alternative fueled vehicle.—
 - (A) In general.— The term ‘alternative fueled vehicle’ means a dedicated vehicle or a dual fueled vehicle;
 - (B) Inclusions.— The term ‘alternative fueled vehicle’ includes—
 - (i) a new qualified fuel cell motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B (b)(3) of title 26);
 - (ii) a new advanced lean burn technology motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(c)(3) of that title);
 - (iii) a new qualified hybrid motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(d)(3) of that title); and
 - (iv) any other type of vehicle that the [EPA] Administrator demonstrates to the [DOE] Secretary would achieve a significant reduction in petroleum consumption.”

- 49 U.S.C. 32901
 - Dedicated vehicle
 - Only capable of operating on alternative fuel
 - Dual-fuel vehicle
 - Capable of operating on alternative fuel or B20 and on gasoline or diesel

The Intersection of AFVs and Low GHG-Emitting Vehicles

- DOE has accepted EPA's demonstration that a low GHG-emitting vehicle achieves a significant reduction in petroleum consumption, and therefore counts as an AFV, if located where a dual-fuel vehicle would not have access to alternative fuel
 - In locations where alternative fuel is available, a dual-fuel vehicle operating on alternative fuel will reduce petroleum consumption more than a low GHG-emitting vehicle operating on petroleum

- Dedicated alternative fuel vehicles
- Dual-fuel vehicles
- Hybrid vehicles
- Advanced lean-burn technology vehicles
- Fuel cell vehicles
- Low GHG-emitting vehicles, if located where a dual-fuel vehicle would not have access to alternative fuel

* See section 7.3 of FEMP's Comprehensive Federal Fleet Management Handbook for a complete list of AFVs.

See the attached document
connecting the mandates
to the definitions